Statement-II

Benchmark and Spot prices of Iron Ore Export

Year			Price in US$/DMT FOB basis
2007-08	Benchmark prices	Baila Lump	64.68
		Doni Lump	62.50
		Baila Fines	50.19
		Doni Fines	50.19
	Spot Prices – Range	Iron Ore Fines	65-157
2008-09	Benchmark prices	Baila Lump	127.10
		Doni Lump	122.82
		Baila Fines	90.28
		Doni Fines	90.28
	Spot Prices – Range	Iron Ore Fines	55-145

Note: (1) Benchmark prices are finalised for the full year and as such there is no change during the year;

(2) Spot prices are for 63.5/63% Fe grade iron ore fines. These prices change on transaction to transaction basis during the year;

(3) Spot prices for Lumps are not available.

Share of organized retail trade

1709. SHRI N.K. SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to study conducted at the behest of Government by the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, organized retail trade would have a 16 per cent share of the business by 2012;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an accounting firm Deloitte Haskins and Sells has projected that organized retail trade will account for 25 per cent of the business from current levels of 8 per cent by 2011; and

(c) which of the studies appears more realistic and is proposed to be adopted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) Government assigned the study on impact of organised retail on unorganised retail to the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER). The ICRIER in its report has observed that the organized retail which now constitutes a small four per cent of total retail sector is likely to grow at a much faster pace of 45-50 per cent per annum and quadruple its share in total retail trade to 16 per cent by 2011-12.

(b) and (c) Different organisations/agencies have conducted studies on the Indian Retail sector using varying methodology for analysis and growth projection of the organised retail sector. This Department is not aware of the projections on the share of organised retail trade made by Deloitte Haskins and Sells.

New industrial licence in the Tobacco Sector

1710. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is not allowing any new industrial license in Tobacco sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons for not allowing new industrial license in the sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY AND PROMOTION, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The manufacture of cigars and cigarettes using tobacco is subject to compulsory industrial licensing. However, Government is not encouraging setting up of new units for the manufacture of cigarettes on public health considerations.

Pursuing FTA's indiscriminately

1711. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ:
SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is pursuing Free Trade Agreement's indiscriminately; and

(b) if so, the details of experience of relative gains from the India-Singapore and India-Thailand FTAs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) No, Sir. Before entering into negotiations with its trading partners, studies are undertaken internally, as well as through joint study groups to study the feasibility of the proposed FTAs, including their impact on the domestic industry. Consultations are also held with the domestic stakeholders including the Apex Chambers of Commerce and Industry, industry associations as well as the administrative Ministries and Departments. In order to protect the interests of the domestic industry, these Agreements provide for maintaining sensitive/negative lists of items on which limited or no tariff concessions are granted under the FTA. In addition, in case of a surge in imports and injury to the domestic industry, a country is allowed to take measures such as antidumping and safeguards.

(b) India's trade with its FTA partners is increasing steadily.

A Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Singapore was signed on 29th June, 2005 and has become operational with effect from 1-8-2005. India-Singapore bilateral trade increased from US $ 6.65 billion in 2004-05 to US $ 15.49 billion in 2007-08 at a compounded annual growth rate of 32.53%.